

Message Text

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ACTION IO-11

INFO OCT-01 IOE-00 CU-02 AF-06 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10

SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 L-03 H-02 NSC-05 OMB-01

ISO-00 /092 W

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O P 061705Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7605

INFO AMEMBASSY WARSAW PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 03782

NESCO

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, OCON, UNESCO

SUBJECT: IRAQI PERMREP'S REMARKS ON UNESCO MEETING IN
WARSAW RE PRESERVATION HISTORIC SITES.

1. IN CHANCE CONVERSATION WITH DELOFF, IRAQI PERMREP TO UNESCO (AZIZ ALHAJ ALIHIDAR) BROACHED SUBJECT MEETING. HE ASKED IF US HAD ANY "SURPRISES" TO RAISE AT SUBJECT MEETING. TO DELOFF'S COUNTER THAT US HOPED FOR SERIOUS MEETING DEVOTED TO SUBJECT MATTER AND INDEED WISHED TO AVOID DIVISIVE ISSUES OF POLITICAL NATURE, IRAQI REPLIED THAT ARABS DID NOT INTEND FOR THEIR PART TO RAISE POLITICAL ISSUES, THAT IRAQI DEL. IN WHICH HE WOULD PARTICIPATE, COMPRISED OF TECHNICAL EXPERTS AND THAT ARABS WISHED TO KEEP MEETING FOCUSED ON PURELY TECHNICAL ISSUES. HOWEVER, HE SAID THAT IF ANY INITIATIVE WAS MADE BY THE ISRAELIS TO "LEGITIMIZE" ISRAELI OCCUPATION OF JERUSALEM, THE ARABS WOULD REACT "VIOLENTLY".

2. NEVERTHELESS, HIS REMARKS SUGGEST POSSIBILITY THAT
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THEIR OR OTHER ARAB INTERVENTIONS MIGHT WELL INCLUDE

PROFORMA CRITICISM OF ISRAELI EXCAVATIONS, ALTHOUGH HIS MAIN POINT SEEMED INTENDED TO CONVEY THAT ARABS WOULD NOT REPEAT NOT SEEK TO AMEND TEXT OF DRAFT RECOMMENDATION ITSELF. RE DRAFT.RECOMMENDATION TEXT, IRAQI SAID ARABS SATISFIED WITH AND SUPPORT RECOMMENDATION AS IT STANDS.

3. COMMENT: ALIHIDAR IS' ALONG WITH ALGERIAN PERMREP HERE A KEY PROPONENT OF HARDLINE AND CONFRONTATION TACTICS ON EVERY ARAB-ISRAELI ISSUE. FURTHER HE DOES NOT READILY ENGAGE IN DIALOGUE OF EVEN THE MOST INFORMAL KIND WITH MEMBERS OF US PERMDEL. THEREFORE, HIS RAISING OF WARSAW MEETING AND VOLUNTEERING THAT ARABS ALLEGEDLY WILL NOT PROVOKE ANY CONFRONTATION, MAY BE HOPEFUL SIGN THAT MAJOR CONTROVERSY CAN BE AVOIDED. PERMDEL WOULD NEVERTHELESS STRESS THAT ARAB "FOREBEARANCE" WILL NOT LIKELY REPEAT WILL NOT LIKELY PRECLUDE THEIR MAKING VERY HARSH REMARKS ABOUT ISRAELI EXCAVATIONS IN ARAB STATEMENTS MADE IN FORMAL DEBATE OF SUBJECT MEETING OR AT POINT IN DISCUSSIONS WHEN JERUSALEM MIGHT BE A MOST "APPROPRIATE" CASE IN POINT OF EITHER EXCAVATIONS OR DANGERS POSED BY URBANE RENOVATION OR MODERNIZATION PROGRAMS TO HISTORIC SITES.

4. EVEN THOUGH PLO, UNDER EXISTING UNESCO PROCEDURE, COULD ATTEND SUBJECT MEETING IN OBSERVER CAPACITY, SO FAR THERE IS NO INDICATION, EITHER FROM UNESCO SECRETARIAT SOURCES OR ARAB SOURCES THAT THEY PLAN TO ATTEND.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CULTURAL PROPERTY, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, MEETINGS, MILITARY OCCUPIED AREAS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976PARIS03782
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760046-0337
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760274/aaaacmzr.tel
Line Count: 91
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 APR 2004 by greeneet>; APPROVED <11 AUG 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: IRAQI PERMREP'S REMARKS ON UNESCO MEETING IN WARSAW RE PRESERVATION HISTORIC SITES.
TAGS: PORG, OCON, XF, IS, UNESCO, (ALIHIDAR, AZIZ ALHAJ)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006